No 638 December 2, 2001

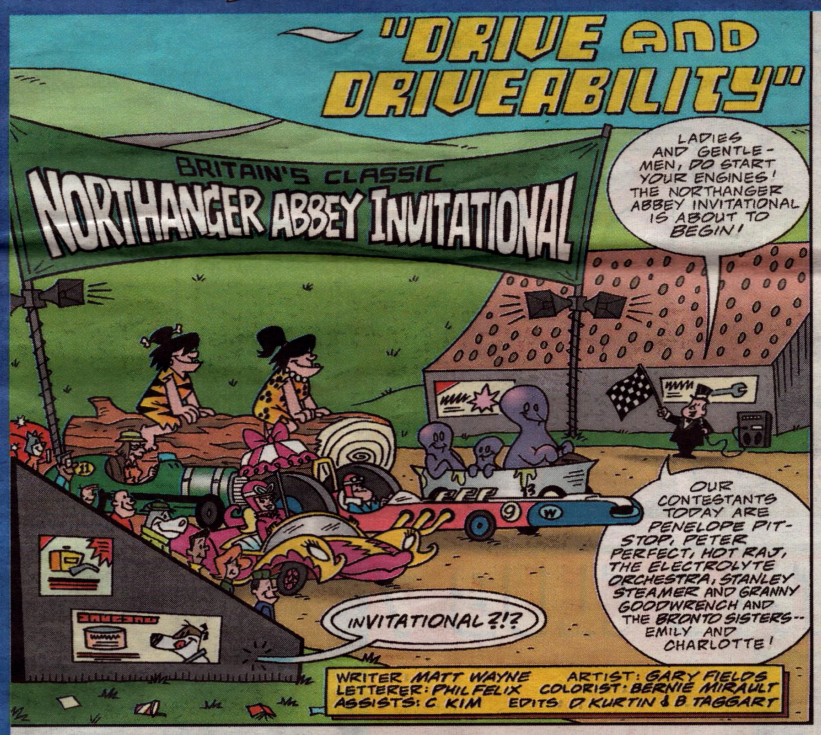
THE FUNDAY TIMES

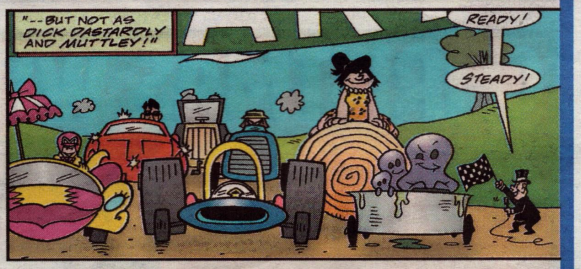
Christmas cheer

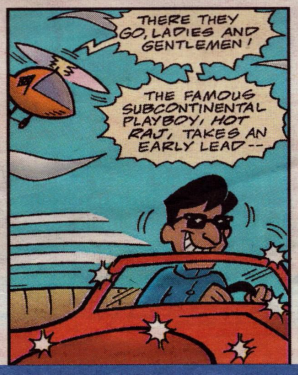
Chart stars Liberty enjoy the thrills of a festive day at Disneyland Paris

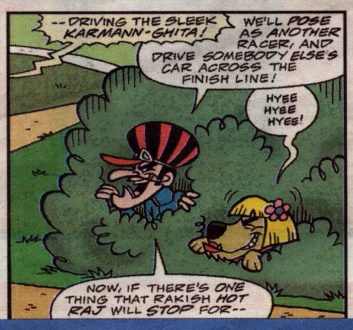
Page 6

Wacky Races in "DRIVE AND DRIVEABILITY"









More inside

Continues next week!

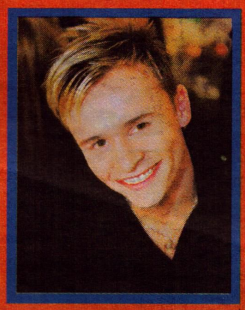
DASTARDLY & MUTTLEY AND THE WACKY RACES AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HANNA-BARBERA ©HANNA-BARBERA AND HEATTER-QUIGLEY (S01).

CHRISTMAS WITH S CLUB 7

Hi Jon, where will you spend Christmas?
At home with my mum and dad. My two older brothers and younger sister will be there, too, so it'll be a real family get-together. That's what Christmas is all about, isn't it?

Do you like winter?
Oh I love it! I hate being hot, so it's nice to be back in England in the cold. I don't mind when we're in Hollywood and I can cool off by the pool, but having to work in that heat is horrible.

What's your favourite thing to watch on TV at Christmas?
Only Fools And Horses. I love watching all the old episodes and I hear they're making a new Christmas special this year, so I'll certainly be glued to the telly when that's on.



FUNDAY 7

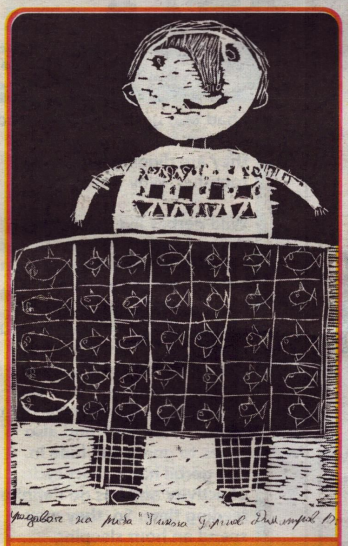
And your least favourite?
They always show the same old films, don't they? I mean, The Wizard Of Oz is a great film but I'm fed up with seeing it.

Do you look forward to your Christmas lunch?
Definitely. I love mum's cooking. She does a fantastic roast turkey dinner. I don't usually eat Christmas pudding, though. I used to have a really sweet tooth but I've lost it.

PICTURE: JAMIE HUGHES COVER PICTURE: TOM EVANS

FUNDAY

NEWS



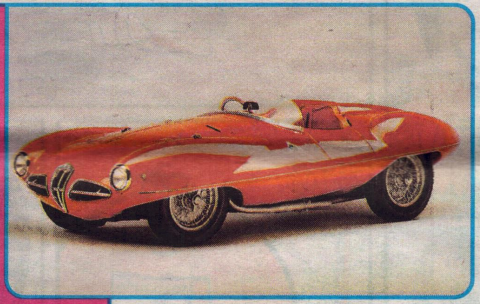
Art world

Young artists from 13 different countries will gather in London on Thursday to see an exhibition of their pictures go on display at Tate Modern. The selected artists all took part in The Unilever International Art Project, which encouraged schoolchildren from countries as far apart as China, India and Sweden to create modern pieces of art based around a theme of the environment.
Tate director Sir Nicholas Serota, who helped judge the entries, told us: "All the works we have chosen are very vivid. From Electric Tree [below] by 15-year-old Russian Irana Pankratova to the absolute simplicity of the black and white The Fish Seller [above] by 10-year-old Nikola Dimitrov from Bulgaria."
This cool exhibition can also be visited online at: www.unilever.com/ne/ut_il.asp under the category SchoolsArt

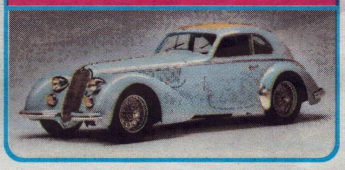
Have an ice stay!

The world's largest ice hotel in Jukkasjarvi, Sweden – made entirely from snow and ice – re-opened for the new season yesterday. Made from 3,000 tonnes of ice and covering 4,000 square metres, the hotel includes an ice chapel, an ice art exhibition hall, an ice bar and an ice cinema. Even the beds are made from ice and they are covered with reindeer skins for insulation. Guests are also provided with a specially made sleeping bag to keep them toasty – since temperatures in the hotel can dip to -7C at night. This spectacular subzero hotel is only open for business during the winter each year – in April, the sun comes out and melts it!

Motor magic

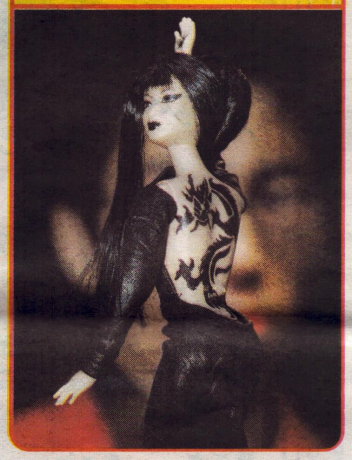


If you like cars, then check out Alfa Romeo – Sustaining Beauty, which opened yesterday at the Science Museum in London. The awesome exhibition boasts a fantastic collection of classic cars worth more than £50m. With original designs, technical blueprints and open engines, the show looks at changes in car design since the beginning of the last century.
Amongst the super-cool motors on display are the 1938 2900 B Lungo [below] – which appeared in "special" form for the 1938 Le Mans 24-hour race – and the 1952 Disco Volante [above], one of two models in existence that can reach up to 225kph. For more details, call the Science Museum on 0870 870 4868 or click on the website at: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk



Barbie world

Wingo Wong, a design student from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, has transformed blonde bombshell Barbie into a tattooed temptress. But parents don't need to worry, this new-look Barbie won't be going on sale. Toy company Mattel set 20 students in Hong Kong the task of giving the 42-year-old doll a creative makeover in just two days. With dark hair and an off-the-shoulder black dress that reveals the intricate dragon tattoo on Barbie's back, Wong's design was judged the most striking of the lot.
"Barbie has a very healthy image, but there must be other sides to her," Wingo told us.



Premier pointers

Encouraging Future Soccer Players, the £4m scheme designed to help develop football, has come up with six steps to success – one of which is having your birthday in October! A study of the 543 players in the Premiership revealed that a high proportion were born in October. Such players include Liverpool's Michael Owen, Arsenal's Tony Adams, Manchester United's Andy Cole and Leicester City's Robbie Savage. Wannabe football players born in other months needn't panic, however. The report cites other key elements including starting at an early age, playing your first match by the age of seven, lots of practice, playing with mates and having a supportive adult to help you on your way.

PICTURES: REUTERS/KIN CHEUNG, DAN TOBIN SMITH/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

FUNDAY

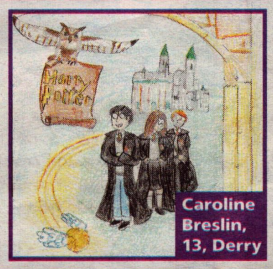
TOP DRAW

Welcome to our new section for budding Funday artists and scribblers! If you've got a cool drawing or painting you want to show off, send it to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX

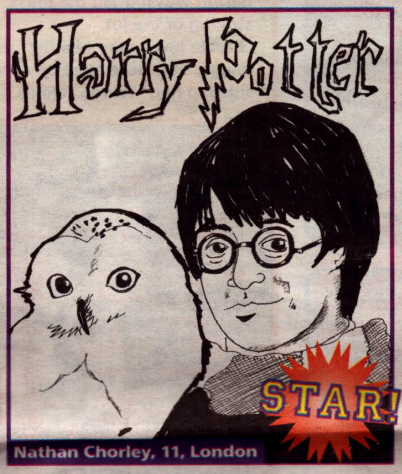
MAKING GREATS

Hasbro has a great range of creative kits for artists who like to use their hands ... as well as their imaginations. Create amazing designs with Spirograph, cook up yummy treats with the Chocolate Factory, make top tiles with Discovering Mosaics, unwrap a mummy with Egyptian Mystery or get sticking with the Super Sticker Factory! The creator of the star picture will receive all these great Hasbro kits.

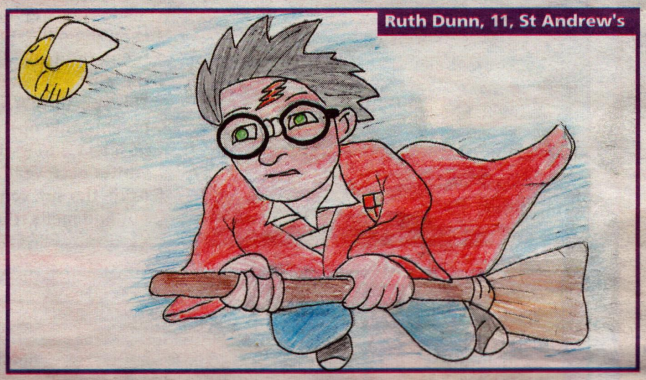
The other Top Draw artists will receive Spirograph and Discovering Mosaics.



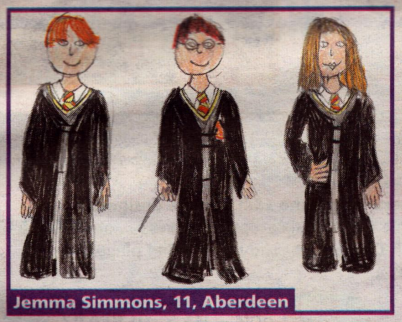
Caroline Breslin, 13, Derry



Nathan Chorley, 11, London



Ruth Dunn, 11, St Andrew's



Jemma Simmons, 11, Aberdeen

Ciara Creamer, 11, Westmeath,

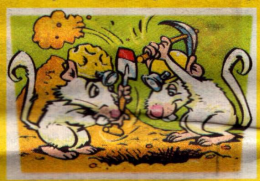
Karen Ringer, Torquay

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

I had two gerbils but one died so I got another one. Now they are digging a lot more together. Why is that?
Gwen Taylor, St Albans

Wild gerbils live in arid, dry desert-like terrain in systems of burrows. It sounds like the one before was quite sick and this was probably why it did not burrow as much. The two you have now are just showing normal gerbil activity. You should provide lots of wood chippings or sawdust for them to tunnel through and also tubes to gnaw and hide in. The gerbil has a short cycle of activity and has no definite feeding time. So, they may spend an hour sleeping followed by half an hour of activity followed by more sleep.



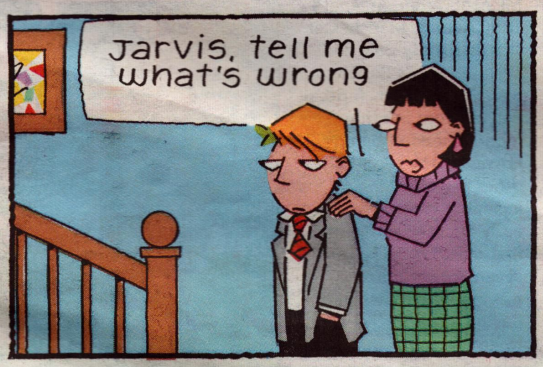
Advice by Blue Cross vet Mark Bossley

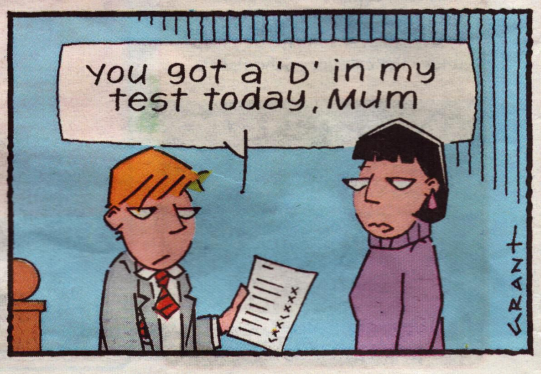
If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST
You can now e-mail your pet problems to
dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year the charity found homes for thousands of animals and treated more than 50,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMRICK

Jarvis





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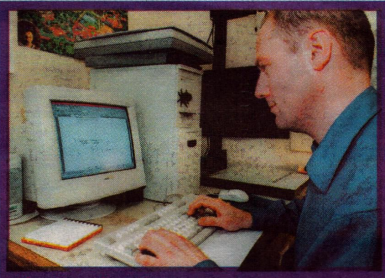
How's your Harry Potter sketch going? Send it in today!

REVVING UP!

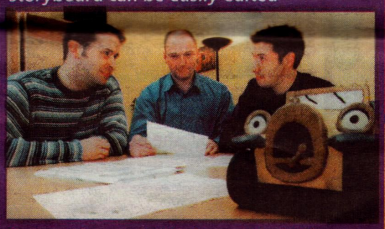
Funday discovers how the production team behind TV superhero Brum plan each episode of the hit show



Alan Dapré writes on a computer – so that the Brum plots can be revised easily

Will Miller [left] and Steve Dorrance create storyboards from Alan's action outline

Will draws on Post-It notes, so that the storyboard can be easily edited



Steve, Alan and Will discuss their ideas together – so that they get the best possible result for the finished show

Producer Chris Wood and superhero Brum

"Heroes are really important, particularly for children nowadays," says Chris Wood, producer of the hit TV show Brum. "In the past, stories about heroes were passed down from generation to generation to give children courage – and hopefully Brum will do the same thing, because he is a superhero."

Creating a 10-minute episode in which Brum can show off his superhero powers might sound like a simple task – after all, it's only 10 minutes of TV – but it actually takes lots of preparation and hard work from a skilled production team.

"For a Brum plot to work, it's got to have action, energy, comedy, logic and a clear story," explains Chris. Alan Dapré is one of the writers who creates storylines for Brum, and he keeps Chris's words in mind when thinking up new plots. "And whenever I have an idea for an episode, I try to put it down in just one or two sentences," Alan adds. "If I can tell it briefly, I know it's beginning to work."

But simple plots contain lots of detail. "At the beginning I scribble my ideas down, covering about 10 sheets of paper. And then it's a question of bringing the ideas together and telling the story in a single line," Alan says.

Reducing a story to a simple plot requires patience; Alan runs through his tale again and again, improving and modifying it until it's just a series of bullet points, called an action outline. When the production team is confident that the action outline is the basis for a great episode, jokes and details are added.

Storyboard artists, like Steve Dorrance and Will Miller, create a series of pictures from the developed outline, showing how the story will unfold.

"From the text we pick out what's crucial to the story and draw it," explains Will. "And once the production team have the visual story in front of them, it's easy to see which bits work and where the story needs changing."

"Sometimes you can read the text quite happily but find it's really tricky to tell the story with pictures," adds Steve. "And if we can't show something in a drawing, it's not going to work on TV."

Storyboards like these [below], for an episode called Brum And The Stunt Bike Rescue, allow the production team to plan each programme, shot by shot, before the cast and crew begin filming.

But how do Steve and Will know whether they've got it right? "When the storyboards are finished, everyone should be able to read through them and follow the plot without getting confused," says Steve. "If they can't – or they don't laugh – it's literally back to the drawing board for us!"

Like the writing team, Steve and Will revise the storyboards for each episode several times. And with 70 to 120 drawings for a 10-minute programme, that can be a lot of re-drawing.

"That's why we draw our storyboards on Post-It notes," Will points out. "It means we can move them around, edit a sequence or replace bits easily. And with a lightbox, we can trace through them too, which saves time re-drawing things."

But doesn't re-writing and re-drawing an episode several times get depressing? "No, not at all. It's only when you re-think and re-work ideas that they improve," states Steve. "Everyone thinks their original idea is the best thing – but the more you play with it, the bigger it gets and the more elaborate it becomes. Then, you can get rid of the bad bits and you end up with the perfect gem that you're after."

HOW THE STORY COMES ALIVE

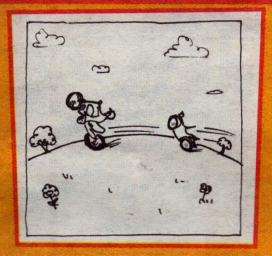
ACTION OUTLINE

We see the motorbike and Brum with their wheels in the air, roaring across the grass in the park. Quite a sight!

The tramp is fast asleep on the bench. The scene is peaceful.

The motorbike roars past and the tramp's paper duvet flies everywhere.

STORYBOARDS



THE FINISHED RESULT

For more information on Brum, visit www.brum.tv

WINTER WONDERLAND

Funday whisks chart stars Liberty to Disneyland Paris for a day of Christmas cheer! Dave Coombs joins them on their magical journey

1 "It's wicked that we're here, I love theme parks," cries Kevin as the band grab their tickets and prepare to enter Disneyland Paris. "We've even been recognised already by some of the French kids, which is a strange but really nice feeling," he adds.

2 Before tackling the rides, Liberty settle down for a fun-filled character breakfast. As soon as Jessica returns from the buffet, she's joined at the band's table by King John.

3 Over breakfast, the band meet a host of Disney characters. Kelli gives Eeyore a big hug, Mickey gives Tony an autograph, and Kevin does a remarkably good impression of Wendell. Scary!

4 With their hunger pangs taken care of, Liberty are ready to explore the park – but where to go first? "I'd like to go on something scary please," says Jessica. So, everyone heads for Big Thunder Mountain, one of the large rollercoasters at Disneyland Paris.

5 The runaway mine train careers along its rickety course, and the band all cheer the first ride of the day! Except for Jessica ... who screams! "The ride is quite scary when it goes fast," exclaims Kelli at the end. "Although Jessica's screaming scared me more than anything else."

6 The band discover Disneyland's Liberty Arcade – a Victorian-style shopping mall decorated with intricate paintings. Everyone strikes a pose – to match their namesake statue.

7 It's time for another ride, so Tony and Kevin head for the Le Carrousel de Lancelot. This traditional ride is a lot calmer than Big Thunder Mountain, and the boys enjoy the pace. "There's something about the atmosphere here that makes everyone feel like a kid," grins Kevin.

8 "It's time for some hot chocolate, to warm us up," smiles Michelle, who's wearing a new pair of festive mittens. "It looks all Christmassy here, and because it's so cold it feels like Christmas too," she adds.

9 At Disneyland Paris, it always snows for Christmas! At the festive Enchanted Forest, snow falls every hour in the morning although Tony, Jessica and Kelli caught this fall at the Chaparral Theatre, waiting to watch the Mickey's Winterwonderland show.

10 At the end of the show, Liberty are invited on stage to meet the cast. The classic Disney Characters are all wearing special Christmas outfits and hats. This perfect pose is soon shattered, though, as a snow fight erupts between Kevin, Tony and ... Goofy!

11 "I love buying presents, but I haven't had a chance to event think about Christmas shopping yet this year," sighs Kelli as she eyes the decorations. "Christmas shopping back home in Galway is always great fun, but I'm not a good present buyer," Tony confesses. "I've given a few stinkers in my time."

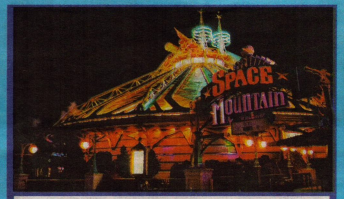
12 Ho, ho, ho! The shops at Disneyland Paris are bulging with festive treats and trinkets. To avoid the cold, Michelle wraps up in a complete Christmas outfit!

13 It's 3pm, which means it's time for The Christmas Parade. Liberty take their places on Main Street USA to watch the enchanting procession glide by. Inspired by Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, the festive floats are accompanied by a magical musical soundtrack.

14 This cheeky snowman potters about between the floats and marching soldiers – making everyone laugh.

15 Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa, and Liberty pay Father Christmas a visit in his grotto. "I'd like a CD Walkman please, because mine broke!" Jessica tells Santa. "I love Christmas, it really is the best time of the year. And this one will be the best one yet because I haven't seen my family for ages. So, we're going to treasure it."

16 As night falls, the illuminated lanterns on the Mad Hatter's Tea Cups ride begin to twinkle. Jessica, Michelle and Kelli enjoy a gentle spin although the boys think they're missing out, so they jump into the same cup for a second ride.



17 **BEFORE**: "I love scary rides, but I'm not sure about Space Mountain, it's a rollercoaster in the dark," ventures Michelle. And with that, the train is catapulted up the lift hill and Liberty are plunged into the high-speed, looping adventure.
AFTER: "Wow, that's the best ride I've ever been on in my life and that's no exaggeration," yells Michelle. "That was brilliant, and it went so fast that my eyes are watering," giggles Kelli.

18 At night, the park looks enchanting and Main Street USA sparkles with thousands of coloured Christmas lights. These twinkling archways are illuminated each evening during the dramatic Tree Lighting Ceremony.

19 The end of the day is marked by spectacular Christmas fireworks and the incredible Main Street Electrical Parade. These majestic floats glisten with fairy lights as they process serenely through the park.

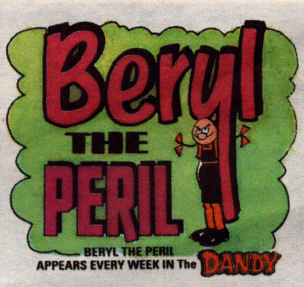
20 Tired but happy, Liberty leave Disneyland Paris and board the Eurostar train for their journey back to London. "Thank you Funday for a great trip," beams Jessica. "We have all had a superb time." "Yes, it's been fantastic – I hope we can do it again soon," grins Kevin.

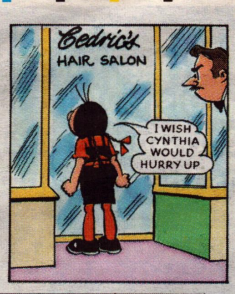
Liberty's new single, Doin' It, is released tomorrow on V2 Music.

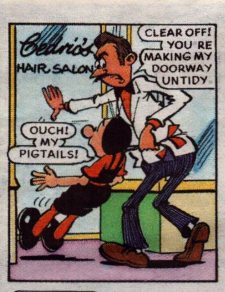
The spectacular Christmas season at Disneyland Paris runs until January 6. For more information [plus a sneak preview of the new Walt Disney Studios park] visit www.disneylandparis.com.

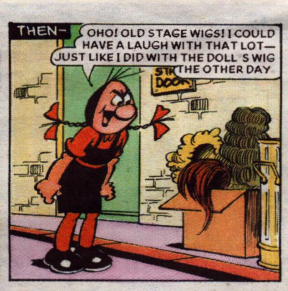
A daily direct Eurostar service – from Waterloo International to the gates of Disneyland Paris – runs over the Christmas period. For more information and train times visit www.eurostar.co.uk.

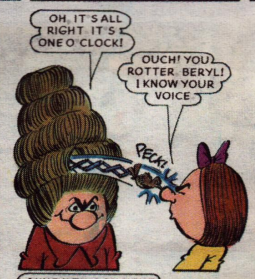
PICTURES: TOM LAVERS

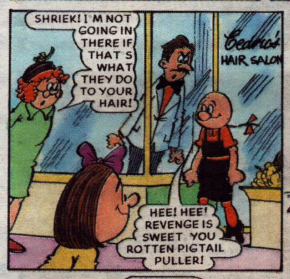


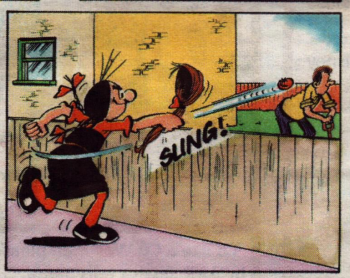


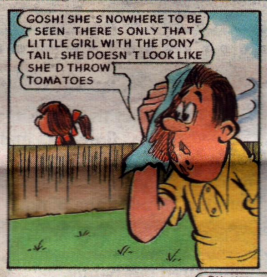


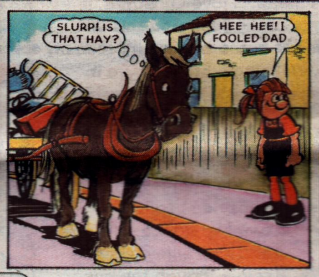


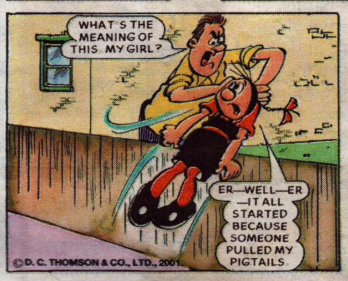


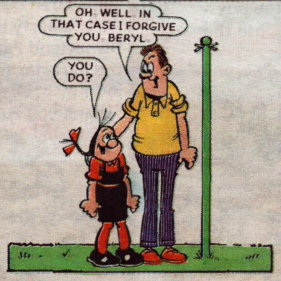


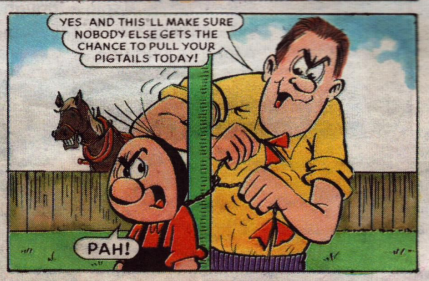












www.monstersinc.com

Already on its way to beating Toy Story 2 as the largest grossing animated movie, Disney/Pixar's Monsters Inc won't hit UK cinemas until February. Thanks to the world wide web, though, we can all sneak a peek at the film. Look out for Sulley and Mike – the monsters making everyone scream with laughter!

www.bbc.co.uk/beasts

You can never get too much of a good thing and Walking With Beasts is every bit as impressive on the web as it is on TV. In fact, this site is a great deal more explanatory than the narrative-based programme. There are links for the making of the series, evidence of the beasts' existence, and fossil fun.
One to get your teeth into!

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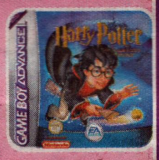
If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE ★★★★★



It was always going to be difficult for a Harry Potter game [also on PSOne and PC CD-Rom] to match the excitement of the film. But, even without the tie-in, this is a great title in its own right. The gameplay is enthralling although on occasion it can be a trifle slow. But there are plenty of stories, characters and scenes [including quidditch action!] to make the magic last a few weeks longer on your handheld.

GAME BOY ADVANCE

CUSTOMISED TRAINERS ★★★★★

If you want to shine on the street, get your cool new trainers customised with glitter, sparkle and diamante. Hot customisation artist Jonquin Eden will be at the new First Sport Trocadero store on Shaftesbury Avenue, London, on December 6 and December 15 to adorn any pair of trainers you purchase with some sparkle. And don't worry if you can't make it, just call the mail order line [020 7439 7500] on those dates to get the sparkling service via the phone.

COOL TREND

ULTIMATE ROBOT KIT David Eckold ★★★★★

Ultimate Robot Kit [£16.99] should carry a warning – piecing together the five DIY robots contained in this huge box nearly drove us mad! The kits are very fiddly and unfortunately the cardboard components, wooden sticks and string didn't stick together properly either. Even consulting the instruction cards [which appear to be well laid out] didn't help us achieve the results we expected. This set will only appeal to true robot fanatics – and older readers with bucketloads of patience.

CREATIVE KIT

Poor Beryl gets into trouble again next week!

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

ZSLEEP TALKING

With her new single We're Not Gonna Sleep Tonight out next week, Buzz! catches up with Emma Bunton

Hi Emma, what have you been up to since we saw you last?

People probably think I've been lazing around at home, but I haven't. I've been busy promoting the album in Europe and Australia. I've also just become an auntie – Alfie is my brother PJ's son and he's so cute.

Tell us a bit about the new single, We're Not Gonna Sleep tonight ...

It's one of those tracks that makes you want to get up and dance. It's dedicated to all my girl mates. We try to get together a couple of nights a month. We don't go out to tease boys though, we're just out to have a giggle.

What's your idea of a great night out?

Well, we don't always get out of the house! The best part is when the girls come over to my house, we get a pizza, put the music on and get all dressed up. Sometimes we're having such a great time that we don't bother going out, but if we do it's to a fun bar or small club.

You sing about staying up all night, is that typical Emma Bunton behaviour?

I stayed up playing cards until 4am the other night, but I love my sleep. I'm usually in bed by 11pm and don't get up until 9am after a wonderful 10 hours of sleep. I don't remember my dreams, but if I eat cheese before going to sleep I do have nightmares – so there are no late-night cheese snacks for me!

On the single cover you also thank the girls for all their support ...

Yep, that's dedicated to the fans – not just the girls – who have been so supportive of my solo career. And the other Spice Girls have been amazing. They always pop down to the studio or ring me up to wish me well.

We're Not Gonna Sleep Tonight is out on December 10

HAMM IT UP

It must be great to star in one Disney/Pixar movie ... but actor John Ratzenberger has been in all four! As well as voicing the plucky piggy-bank, Hamm, in Toy Story and Toy Story 2, John starred as P T Flea in A Bug's Life and you can hear him as the Yeti in the upcoming Monster Inc.

"I guess I'm like Pixar's lucky charm," John tells Funday.

But how did John get to star as Hamm? "Andrew Stanton [a Toy Story writer] was drawing Hamm and kept imitating my voice – so they thought: 'Let's see if Ratzenberger is out of jail yet,'" John jokes.

Fans of Hamm can see the pig in action when Toy Story 2 premieres on Disney Channel next Sunday. But there's one scene that viewers won't see – because it was cut from the finished film. It starts with the beach-loving Barbie dolls giving Hamm a back massage. John continues: "Hamm then says: 'That feels great. Hey, what's that smell – that's not suntan lotion that's barbecue sauce', which was really funny!"

Toy Story 2 has its British television premiere on Disney Channel on December 9 at 4pm

PICTURES ©DISNEY/PIXAR PICTURES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. EPA

HOT!

S Single A Album V Video

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR 2001 ★★★★☆

There's not much to say about this record other than it's probably the best compilation out at the moment. All the best songs of the year are here – including tracks by S Club 7, J.Lo, Five, Liberty, Craig David, Hear'Say, Westlife, DJ Pied Piper, a1, Natalie Imbruglia and Dane Bowers. In fact, we could only spot two dodgy tracks amongst the 40 included. A compilation sensation.

SO FAR SO GOOD Atomic Kitten ★★★★☆

The AK girls have put a lot of effort into this video, and it pays dividends. Not only do we get a great fly-on-the-wall look at life in Atomic Kitten, we also get the glossy videos for the singles so far, including new track You Are. This video charts the Kerry Katona years and doesn't gloss over things like the time the band were dropped by their record label. Definitely one to pop on your Christmas wish list.

WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH Steps ★★☆☆☆

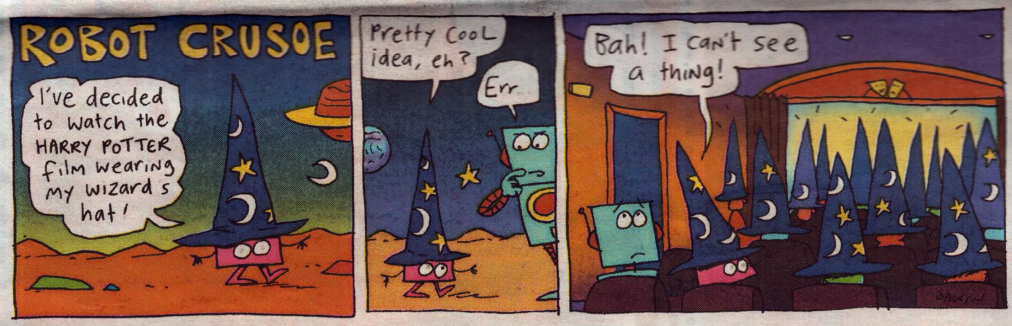
This isn't Steps' best single – in fact, it's in the running as one of their worst. Which is a shame. Despite being remixed for this single release, Words Are Not Enough isn't uptempo enough to get your feet moving yet it doesn't make the grade as a ballad either. The animated video is also a bit dodgy. The single comes with the girls' fab version of 1980s showtune I Know Him So Well though, a nice bonus for Steps fans. Plus, the band have an awesome single set for release in the new year – so, things are looking up. Phew.

EVERYBODY Hear'Say ★★★★☆

How can Hear'Say be releasing another album this year? Does this mean the band recorded this second one in a real rush and that it's not up to standard? Well, no actually, it doesn't. In fact, Everybody is better than Popstars – and, for the first time, the band really get to show off their superb voices. Hear'Say have never sounded so good!

More Buzz! exclusives next week

ADVANCE FEATURES



NEXT WEEK

Don't miss your chance to see a preview screening of Walt Disney Pictures' The Princess Diaries

The delightful fairytale film stars Julie Andrews, Anne Hathaway and Mandy Moore

We've got 3,000 free tickets up for grabs in Funday next week!

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday times@sunday times co uk

ANIMAL ANTICS

Dr Dolittle fans will be wild with excitement to know that the Dr Dolittle 2 Double Pack, a double dose of animal antics including both Dr Dolittle movies, is out now on video [£15 99] and DVD [£22 99].

Dr Dolittle 2 sees the main man trying to help his animal pals save their forest from a dodgy old land developer and a dirty-playing lawyer.

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment is giving the writer of the star f-mail a red remote control Bush colour TV and a Dr Dolittle 2 video double-pack.

The other f-mailers will receive the video double-pack.

Dear f-mail,

I don't know why more children don't play golf. I think it is a fantastic sport. Some of my friends say it's boring and what possible pleasure could I get from hitting a ball, walking to it, and then hitting it again! But it's not like that. The thrill of hitting a good ball is amazing – it just makes you want to keep trying again and again to get that perfect stroke. And it must be absolutely fantastic to hit a hole in one. It's never happened to me – but a friend of my dad once did it and he still talks about it! I don't like the winter because it means I can't play golf as much as I'd like because of the dark nights. But my mum is great and takes me to the golf range where there is lighting, so I can play in the evenings. I've started entering competitions and although I haven't won, I'm improving rapidly. So don't think golf is boring – it really isn't, it's great!

David Trye, New Barnet

What's the difference between Father Christmas and a dog?
Father Christmas wears a whole suit, a dog just pants!

What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with Sherlock Holmes?
Santa Clues!

Where do ghosts go at Christmas?
The phantomime!

Jenny Cooper, Wormley

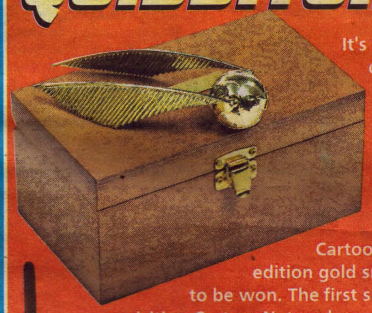
FUNDAY

WIN IT!

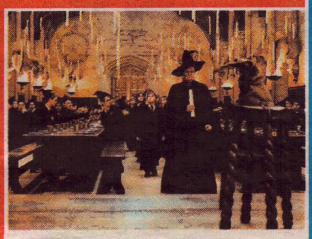
COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: December 12

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted

QUIDDITCH QUEST



It's the third and final week of our exclusive golden snitch competition!
The must-see Harry Potter movie is breaking box-office records at cinemas and, to celebrate the magic event, a golden snitch has been released and it's up to you to find it!
Cartoon Network has got three limited edition gold snitches – inspired by the film – to be won. The first snitch can be won online now by visiting CartoonNetwork.co.uk, while another gold snitch can be won by tuning in to Cartoon Network until December 10.
The third of these rare money-can't-buy snitches has been given to Funday to give away!
One lucky reader will receive the gold-plated snitch with sterling silver wings in its presentation box. Plus, three runners-up each get a life-size Nimbus 2000 broomstick and a copy of the Harry Potter soundtrack CD.
This is the third week of the competition. You should already have located the hidden golden snitches in our November 18 and November 25 issues. The third and final snitch is hidden somewhere in today's issue.



To enter, just describe the locations of all three Funday snitches and tell us the name of the captain of the Gryffindor quidditch team.

Mark your entry SEEKER and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

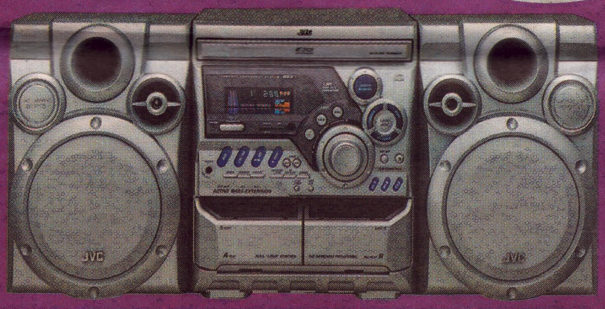
©WARNER BROS/PETER MOUNTAIN

EAT THE UGLIES!

Butt-Ugly Martians have landed ... in Heinz's new Butt-Ugly Martians Pasta Shapes and are ready to get ugly on your plate. The sauce of it!
Each tasty tomato pasta shape has been styled into one of the Butt-Ugly characters. Ending up on the end of your fork could be Emperor Bog, Dr Damage, a Butt-Ugly Martian or Stoke Mouldoon.
There is also an Imperial Rover Pod and the letters BKM [the secret transformation code to help the Martians conquer evil] so you can make up your very own Butt-Ugly Martians show on your toast!
To celebrate the launch of Butt Ugly Martian Pasta Shapes, Heinz is giving away six JVC MX-KIR hi-fis fitted with a 3-CD turntable and a double tape deck.

To enter, tell us which planet the Butt-Uglies come from.

Mark your entry UGLY and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Dear f-mail,
If there are other Funday readers out there who are interested in saving the rainforest, I advise them to go to www.therainforestsite.com
You can go once a day, and click to save 3m² of the rainforest – without having to pay anything! I think it really is an important thing to do as 4,000m² of rainforest is cut down every second!
Krystina Smith, Bishops Stortford

What do you call a pony with a sore throat?
A little horse!

What do you do with a blue whale?
Try to cheer him up!

Jonathan McNeil, 11, Mobberley

Dear f-mail,
I am writing to talk about Mary-Kate and Ashley. I have seen some of the trailers for their films and I think they look really good. The other day I bought one of their videos called Billboard Dad – it was great. In this video they are about 12 or 13 but now, in real life, they are 15. Mary-Kate and Ashley look very different. I saw an interview with them and they said that they loved doing films and TV series, such as Two Of A Kind and So Little Time. Even though they are only 15 now they have done a lot. When they were babies they were on TV – even at the age of five months. They said that they could not have done it without each other. Please print this as I would like to tell everyone what I think of Mary-Kate and Ashley and how they have supported each other through their careers so far.
Elizabeth Lawton, Southampton

Dear f-mail,
My best friend is called Mary Elaine and I am writing this letter to tell you how cool she is.
When my dog died, Mary Elaine came straight up to my house and comforted me and when I was being bullied I knew that I could turn to my best friend.
So if she is not the coolest friend in the world I don't know who is!
Dayna McCullagh, 11, via e-mail

Young lions

Funday Sport caught up with the England Under-16s football squad in Leicester during the recent Walkers Cup international tournament and met 15-year-old captain Steven Taylor, striker Dean Bowditch and the England coach, Martin Hunter

The players: centre-back Steven Taylor [below], from Newcastle, and 15-year-old Ipswich striker Dean Bowditch [right]

How does playing for your country differ from playing for your club or school?

Steven: It is all about preparation. There is a lot of preparation for these games – mentally, physically and tactically. You are playing the best in their respective countries from Spain, Germany and Holland, so it's a chance for us to learn.

Dean: Yes, the preparation is new to us. At club level you don't really get told to do it, while at international level you do.

Steven: The games are different as well, they are a lot faster. Also, if you make a mistake at club level, you can probably get away with it, but playing against international teams you get punished.

What have you discovered about playing continental teams?

Steven: You learn quickly that if you touch them they are going to go down.

Dean: There is a difference in the way they think. They are not physically strong but their brains are so quick. They will tug your shirt, nudge you and you cannot just nudge them back because they might go down.

What's been the most memorable moment in the Walkers Cup?

Dean: Scoring ... twice against Spain! You see the ball go into the net and you see the crowd just cheering for you and the team. It has been the first time we have played in a stadium let alone with such a crowd.

Steven: Walking out of the tunnel, as well, and hearing the national anthem is fantastic. It's been a fantastic experience playing for our country. I feel three inches taller every time I put on the shirt with the three lions.

Who are your footballing heroes?

Steven: I have two idols – Tony Adams, I think he is one of the best England captains we have had, and my other is Rio Ferdinand.

Dean: I'd have to go with Teddy Sheringham. I think he has got a fantastic brain. He may not be quick on his feet but he sees things quickly in his head, he's just fantastic to watch.

What is your ambition?

Steven: Definitely to be a professional footballer – that is my number-one ambition.

Dean: Yeah, I think that it is the same for all of us.

The coach: Martin Hunter

How is looking after the under-16s different from coaching professionals?

There is a lot more teaching and coaching. We deal with them as a whole, which involves advising them on their conduct both on and off the pitch. We address their politeness and we are constantly reminding them about who they are representing.

How have the team reacted to your advice?

All the boys that I have got are very responsive. They are responsible children, but they are not yet grown adults. All of them want to do well and they realise the pitfalls. There are a queue of footballers who would jump at the chance to be here.

What can they learn from these international tournaments?

They can understand the principles involved in international football – one-off games, mini tournaments, how to deal with living in a hotel, living away from home and adapting to the different problems set by the opposition. It's a constant learning process.

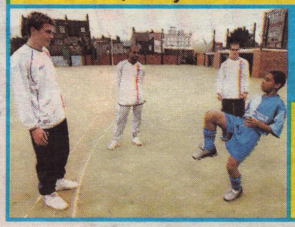
Will these boys make it as professional players?

We make it very low-key, you can't promise children things. All they can do is continue to learn and develop. At the end of the day, if they are good enough they will succeed. They are only on rung one of a 100-rung ladder, so they must not get carried away with this. The best players here now may not be the best players at 21 for all sorts of reasons, such as loss of form or even injury.

KITTED OUT

Burton's Kit 4 Clubs scheme, which provides non-league, school and youth club teams with vital football kit and training equipment, has reached its first anniversary.

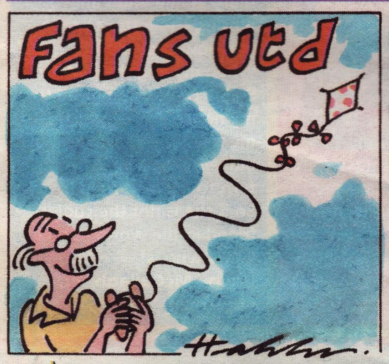
To celebrate, Burton is offering one winner the chance to win a new full strip for his or her team. They will be able to choose the design of their kit. Plus, the winner and one runner-up will receive an England shirt signed by young stars Joe Cole, Ashley Cole and Michael Carrick.

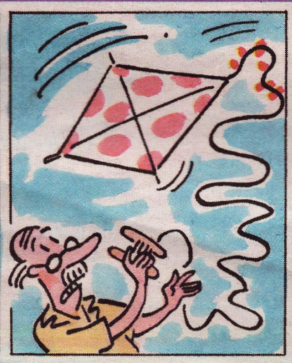


To enter, tell us which Premiership team Joe Cole plays for.

Mark your entry SCORED and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

PICTURES: JUSTIN SLEE





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Finish with the winner – Funday Sport!